

Bridport Lockdown – ideas and FAQs – Businesses

A community project to create a shared collection of images and stories from the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, both during lockdown and beyond, for Bridport and the surrounding area.

The idea?

We are all living in a unique time and learning about our “new normal.” This project aims to create a shared archive of this period in local history. Using photos but concentrating on both the good, and the less good, stories, thoughts, or feelings. And details of the lives of the people in, or behind, the photos.

Who can take part?

- Everyone and anyone. It isn't just for photographers or for writers. This project is about ALL of our lives. Everyone, young and old, has a story to share right now no matter how large or small.
- We are particularly keen to engage with groups, clubs, schools, charities, businesses or other organisations so that this is a record of our existing communities not just the big new one which has come together now. We know that for most local businesses these current times have been, at best, challenging and, for many, very tough and worrying. It feels important that your story is included as part of the wider community one.

“BRIDPORT” lockdown...? What if I live outside Bridport town or if I only work here?

- Yes. You too. This project is for anyone who sees Bridport as being a part of their daily or weekly lives or who works in the area but lives elsewhere.

What sort of photos?

- General themes below but... essentially this project is for you. Your project. Your themes. Your ideas. It is based on photos but is just as much about the **stories** behind them.
- Think of the photos that you might see in an old family album or in a museum. Look at the photos that we have already shared. Think of the things that change. The clothes, the haircuts, the home decor, the streets and businesses and shop fronts. And the people. These are all part of our history and are changing all the time. This is a chance to record tomorrow's history today.

3 main themes:

- the **changes** due to lockdown - the rainbows, queues, PPE, emptiness, etc.
- the **creativity** due to lockdown - the ideas, innovation and adaptations which are making our lives more bearable, more fun, or which are essential to keeping businesses afloat.
- the **normality** that is evolving due to lockdown - the smaller details of our lives at home or at work are all interesting when we add in the stories behind them.

A few other ideas for your own themes (but feel free to add your own):

- “My daily exercise” – how are you keeping active?
- “My work / My study” – how has your work or study changed?
- “Doorstep portraits” – if you are helping friends, relatives or neighbours who are self-isolating or working in the local community then photos of local residents stood in their doorways and thoughts from them or you about these current times are a great addition to this project. **VERY RELEVANT ANY BUSINESSES DOING DELIVERIES. If you do deliveries please ask if your driver(s) are happy to take some of these “doorstep portraits” of the resident to whom they are delivering? We have a document which we can send you to share with the person in the photo which explains the project from their side.**
- “Workplace portraits” – photos of the people who are still out working keeping our services operating, food on our tables etc. **VERY RELEVANT TO ALL BUSINESSES – even if your workplace doesn't look any different at the moment we would still like to see photos and have a snapshot in time and your stories or thoughts about how your business has adapted, thrived or struggled during these times.**
- “Our dinner table” – you may be on your own or with your family, at a table or in front of the TV. Often when you sit down to eat you have time to talk or think about your world.
- “The view from my window” – ideally not just the view but with the window frame included too. This one is really more about your thoughts than the photo. We've all spent

time staring out of the window recently and looking at our lives and the new world emerging around us...write a few words about what has been on your mind.

- **The photos that you already have.** Many of us take photos all the time now. We would love any photos and stories that you already have – maybe from earlier -in this situation? e.g. the empty supermarket shelves or the crowds at West Bay when “social distancing” was a concept that many were taking some time to learn...or just shots of your life at home, at work or generally out & about.
- Any photos that might be less relevant? – landscape shots or photos of your pets. These can be very relevant but tend to change the least over time. Don't feel that you can't submit these but if you do then give some thought to the words that you send in with them. However this situation is having an impact on the natural world and our wildlife so please do send photos relating to that which have insight or stories behind them.
- Photos can be colour or black and white. Any format. Taken on a camera or your phone. Please send the original photos rather than screengrabs which generally have poor image quality. But...if that is all you have...then please still send.

I can take a photo but I'm not great with words or stories. Can I still get involved?

- Absolutely. Every photo, and each of us, has a story. There are people involved here who love writing. They can speak to you, or whoever is in your photo and write that story for you.

My photography isn't great. Can I still get involved?

- Absolutely. This isn't a photography project. It is a record of our lives. Any photo, no matter how good or bad, with a great story or honest thoughts behind it, is a valuable part of that record.

What happens at the end of all this...?

- The photos and accompanying stories will be added to the Covid-19 archive at the Dorset History Centre. They will be a record of the most important shift that's taking place in our society since the last world war. This collection of photos and stories will become an archive for historians of the future, in the same way that the handwritten diaries of the past, left to us by the likes of Samuel Pepys, recorded the histories that we know now of events like the Great Plague of London.
- We plan (TBC) to put on an exhibition locally of a wide selection of the submitted photos.
- This isn't a competition, however... there will be an opportunity available to a small number of people between the age of 18 and 25, selected on their photos and stories, for work experience or internship positions within the creative industry. Details will be announced once we can!

How do I send in photos?

- All photos should be submitted via this link: www.bridportlockdown.org/sendphotos
- ALL photos sent this way will become part of the Covid-19 archive at Dorset History Centre
- A SELECTION of submitted photos will also be added to our Instagram page and website.
- If you would like your photos publicly visible IMMEDIATELY then you can use #bridportlockdown on Instagram www.instagram.com/bridportlockdown (hashtag monitored daily)
- A selection of those hashtag photos will also be added to our Instagram page, to the gallery on the website and to the Covid-19 archive at the Dorset History Centre archive but ONLY once they have also been submitted via the main submission link on the website.
- We would really encourage you to send as many photos as you think might fit in with the project.

Can the project promote my business?

This is not an opportunity for blatant advertising BUT... it is an opportunity for ensuring that all of you who are still out working or volunteering in the community have an opportunity to be included in this slice of life in the most unique time in our local history. We will very happily tag individual or businesses in any social media posts about your photos if you let us know details when you submit your photos.

Where can I find out more information about the Bridport Lockdown project?

- Plenty more information, details of the organisations who are our partners, and a selection of photos are on our website: www.bridportlockdown.org – or, if you aren't an internet user, please call Eddy on 07976 249699 who can answer any questions about the project. Please follow us on Instagram or Facebook or subscribe to our newsletter for updates on the project. Links on website.